

TCC'S HOMELESS TASK FORCE AND THE "GROW-A-TEACHER" PROGRAM RECEIVE DIVERSITY AWARDS

On January 13, 2001 the City of Tempe Human Relations Commission held the 3rd Annual Diversity Awards Dinner. Individuals, youth, businesses, community organizations, neighborhoods, and educational organizations all received diversity awards, two of which have ties to TCC:

Homeless Task Force -- at the recommendation of the Tempe City Council, TCC established a group of Tempe citizen volunteers who met over a year period to address the plight of Tempe's homeless populations, particularly homeless youth. The citizen-driven group was committed to learning as much as possible about the homeless, the issues surrounding homelessness and the potential solutions to the challenges of their lives in Tempe. After the year-long process, the Task Force authored a report that was presented to the Tempe City Council. The report was approved as presented and can be read on TCC's website (www.tempe.gov/tcc). Recommendations will begin to be implemented this year.



Grow-A-Teacher is a new community collaboration with the Tempe Union High School District (TUHSD) and Tempe Community Council. The collaboration was formed with a mission to develop programs to increase the number of teachers from under-represented ethnic groups in the Tempe Union High School District. In just a few months, the program has developed recruitment and instructional paths for recent TUHSD graduates and for district employees who would like to become teachers. The groups recently conducted its first Open House for Grow-A-Teacher students (pictured to the left) and their families, and initiated fund-raising efforts to support future teachers with scholarships, loans, mentors and paid internships.

TEMPE/KYRENE COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS RECEIVES \$1.2 MILLION 21ST CENTURY LEARNING GRANT

The U.S. Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov/21stccle>) has awarded a \$1.2 million-dollar grant to create three 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Tempe. These centers will be located at Marcos de Niza High School, Fees Middle School, and Kyrene de los Ninos Elementary School. The centers will provide an array of services to students, families and the greater community during non-school hours. Services will include; counseling, parent education, literacy support, drug and crime prevention, technology training, ESL and GED programs, summer programs and more.

Tempe/Kyrene Communities In Schools, a project of Tempe Community Council, developed the project in conjunction with the three area school districts. Partner organizations providing services at these sites include: East Valley Boys & Girls Club, Parents Anonymous, Camp Fire Council, East Valley Addiction Council, City of Tempe Cultural Services, Tempe Public Library, Tempe Teen Zone/Kid Zone, Tempe Police Department, Tempe Community Services, and Tempe Social Services. The grant is for three years starting June 1, 2001.

For more information, contact Lynette Stonefeld at (480) 858-2316 or email lynette_stonefeld@tempe.gov.

